

**00628**

**1962/10/23**

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Rec'd: October 24, 1962

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Info

FROM: Tegucigalpa

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 185, October 23, 7 p.m.

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Following text of letter from GOH President to President Kennedy.

QUOTE

October 23, 1962

Ambassador Burrows has personally delivered to me your letter dated yesterday.

The Government and people of Honduras aware of the seriousness which the presence of nuclear arms in Cuba implies, share the preoccupation of the Government and the people of U.S. and give their firmest support to the measures that have been taken to preserve world peace and hemispheric security.

We are fully aware that the peoples of America are joined not only juridically, by a series of inter-American treaties and conventions, which impose upon them specific obligations and inescapable duties, but also by spiritual and material ties which make our continent a community of nations marching toward a common destiny. We also understand that the fortunes of the U.S., the risks and the dangers that your great country has to confront in this grave crisis, affect directly LA countries, especially those which, like Honduras, find themselves situated in the Caribbean area, that we must consider them as our own risks and our own dangers. But even were it not thus, the ties of intimate solidarity that unite us to your Government

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/and your  
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S. Moskowitz

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

Date: 4/16/66

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and your people would be more than sufficient reason for us to be at your side in this hour of trial, ready to second your dissuasive and defensive action with all the resources which we possess.

Honduras will back firmly whatever decision the U.S. may adopt to safeguard Western civilization and culture, and to preserve our status as nations loving peace, liberty and human dignity. In this respect, I have given complete instructions to our Ambassador in Washington and to our delegation in the UN in order that without reservations of any kind they may support the urgent decisions to convoke an immediate meeting of the organ of consultation by the American systems and the Security Council of the UN with the objective of requesting a resolution leading to the immediate withdrawal of the bases of offensive arms installed by Russia on the island of Cuba.

In the visit which the members of the Inter-American Defense Board paid me yesterday, I had the opportunity to express to them, jointly with the officials of the armed forces of Honduras, the urgent necessity to coordinate efforts to permit the adoption of a common military action, in defense of world peace and the security of the American continent.

I believe, Mr. President, that a bold challenge to the free peoples of the world can only be answered in similar language and, more than with words, with actions which leave well understood our determined will to struggle until the last breath to defend our system of life and government. This is not the moment for vacillations but for affirmative attitudes. Never has our continent been confronted by such a serious situation which implies such tremendous individual and collective responsibilities. Fidel Castro's treason to the Cuban people and to all America and the policy of deceit and falseness of the Soviet Union, have created this dangerous

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international situation which will lead God only knows where. I am reluctant to believe that these events will lead us to a new world war. Russia is using intimidation as a psychological arm within a premeditated plan of cold war.

The unjust political and military intervention carried out by the Soviet Union against an American state now gives us the opportunity to clarify the situation (call the bluff). We must do it with wise measures which combine firmness and decisive actions. The nature of the present crisis demands it.

Honduras reiterates through me the assurance that it will add its efforts to those which your country may undertake for the better defense of Western democracy and Christian civilization.

Sincerely, Ramon Villeda Morales.

UNQUOTE

BURROWS

LM: ba

NOTE: Passed the White House 10-24-62.

Advance copy to S/SO.

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